

Application No. 10/619,098
Amendment Dated July 31, 2007
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 31, 2007

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please replace the paragraph at line 16 on page 2 through line 4 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Through community based filtered and monitored systems, such as is described in a Provisional Patent Application No.: [[_____]] 10/619,259, teachers can set up accounts for themselves and for their classes in order to provide “shared learning” through collaboration. However, this limits the collaborative environment to those who are willing to use the Internet and become part of a community. Moreover, to the extent that there is any financial burden or cost involved with the account, teachers may be reluctant to bear that obligation personally, inasmuch as it is being used for their professional activities. Similarly, establishing such an account may or may not be consistent with the curriculum plans for a particular school or for the particular school system. Classrooms in wealthier areas may all be interconnected, while those in less affluent parts of a community may not, thus relying on those teachers to bear any economic cost of setting up and maintaining the account, along with the computer necessary to access it.

2. Please replace the paragraph at lines 5-19 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Provisional Patent Application No.: [[_____]] 10/619,097 describes a method and system for multi-level monitoring and filtering of data transmissions (Schoolmail) that permits the creation within a school district or school system of a secure “virtual district” with “virtual classrooms,” “virtual meeting halls,” “virtual teacher conferences” and multiple accounts to permit a hierarchical infrastructure with varying privileges associated with each user name or category. The system provides a universal solution to allowing information flow to both students and educators, while maintaining control of the type and character of material received by the students. It also permits internal community or group generation to permit dissemination of information to different levels of educators or administrators on a need basis. The system can employ common server capability to permit multiple districts to have their individual SchoolMail, while at the same time providing the capability of interaction and connectivity among the districts, based upon screening and search criteria. It can also control the desktop of the personal computers that are on the SchoolMail system to prevent students from getting off and onto an open and uncontrolled system.

3. Please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph at lines 3-14 on page 4:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

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A full and enabling disclosure of the present invention, including the best mode thereof directed to one of ordinary skill in the art, is set forth in the specification, which makes reference to the appended drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic view of a data transmission system of a school system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a schematic view of exemplary layers of security of a data transmission system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

Repeat use of reference characters in the present specification and drawings is intended to represent same or analogous features or elements of the invention.

4. Please delete the paragraph and image at lines 11-14 on page 6.
5. Please replace the paragraph at line 16 on page 4 through line 3 on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 illustrates a data transmission system 10 of a school system comprising a central node and multiple outer nodes. Referring to Figure 1, the method and system [[to]] permit the creation of “parent” accounts 14 within a school system’s data transmission system 10, which are associated with the parent’s child or children who are students 12 in the system. These parent accounts 14 will be capable of being accessed by various levels within the hierarchy of the system and will be associated with one or more schools within the community being services by the entity providing servers and community generation implementation engine. By creating parent accounts 14, a school system can shift the cost of the overall system from a school budget item to a parental expenditure. This will permit the parents to become part of the school community, but not generally a part of the school or district. The parents can, depending on the level determined by the administrator 16, have access to certain aspects of the system, but not to everything that the other users, such as student 12, teacher 18, and monitor 20, may have.

6. Please replace the paragraph at line 15 on page 6 through line 2 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 is an illustration of various exemplary layers of security 30 of the data transmission system of a school system. Referring to Figure 2, parent accounts may be created after the student accounts have been created or may be created simultaneously. Because they are linked accounts, the absence of a student account will prevent a parent account from being activated. The onus for the authentication of parent accounts falls upon

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the school or district – this enables them to use their own records to verify the legitimacy of any application, as shown at block 38.

7. Please replace the paragraph at lines 8-9 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:
 2. Parents visit site to pre-register. They indicate to which students they should be associated (using student's usernames as shown at block 32).
8. Please replace the paragraph at lines 15-16 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:
 4. Parents enter information to pay for account(s). This could be in the form of a credit card, or direct deduction from a checking account, by way of example as shown at block 36.
9. Please replace the paragraph at lines 17-23 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:
 5. Parents receive confirmation code and details in a printable form and are told to print or save it. The parent must get the signed code to the school in a secure way. This can be up to the administrator/school/board, etc. to determine. One method is to have parents physically come in to the school with ID. Alternatively a parent can mail a signed form in with the code, or bring it with the student, as shown at block 34. Exact steps to take for each scenario should be designed to make it as easy as possible for parents to implement them while maintaining the security of the system.